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March 14, 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Commissioner Abernathy,

Before my retirement in 1999, I spent thirty-five years in the telephone and cable business with U S WEST and later, with MediaOne implementing cable-telephony. While we met once briefly at a NARUC convention in Seattle, I think I had already left Utah and the communications company for the Media Group side before you arrived.

For the last ten years of my career, I worked on state and federal regulatory policy and, in that time, I have not seen an order as progressive as the one recently passed by the FCC in their Triennial Review. While I agree with Chairman Powell's reported position of wanting to go a lot farther toward developing facilities-based competition, you should not be disappointed because you've advanced the issue a lot more than anyone thought possible.

i was at AT&T headquarters at Basking Ridge on January 10, 1982 when they announced the divestiture of the Bell System and spent the next five years developing the interexchange carrier market for U S WEST. Most people forget that real competition didn't start until MCI and Sprint got off AT&T's WATS lines and built their own networks. Does anyone remember when MCI was building like crazy or the Sprint ad that their all-fiber network was so clear that "you could hear a pin drop?" Multiple suppliers all selling the same products from the same factory don't produce any technological innovation or new products, just opportunities for marketing, bundling, packaging and tariff arbitrage.

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I am **very** encouraged by the new attitude of the FCC that you need to develop an environment that will encourage the investment necessary to develop the new broadband networks. In the old days, the FCC and state agencies would just order the phone companies to do whatever they wanted without a thought of the cost or the other consequences of their decision.

I know that you clearly understand these issues but I thought you might be getting discouraged by those Commission members who can't see your vision of the future and understand the consequences of their actions. The February 20th Order may not be perfect, but it moves the ball forward and it is much better and more productive than previous FCC Orders.

Please keep the faith and don't get discouraged. You did a fine job.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Munn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Munn" clearly distinguishable.

Robert C. Munn

Chairman, FCC

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